GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:155
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2001
REVIVAL OF INDO-US MILITARY TIES
GANGASANDRA SIDDAPPA BASAVARAJ;SAHIB SINGH VERMA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has hailed revival of Indo-US military ties;

(b) if so, whether India`s support of the US National Missile Defence system has helped to improve the Indo-US military ties;

(c) if so, the extent to which India and US have improved the military ties;

(d) whether all the sanctions imposed on military ties are likely to be removed by the US;

(e) whether any agreement was recently signed in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) Government considers mutually beneficial defence cooperation between India and the United States an important element in the realisation of the shared goal of building a broad-based, stronger and more productive relationship between the two countries.

(b) Resumption of contacts between the defence and military establishments of India and the United States began in 1999. These are based on mutual interests and in response to the shared desire of broadening overall engagement between the two countries.

(c) The two sides have resumed high level military contacts. The Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Pacific Command visited India in January and September 2000. The Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff visited India in July this year and extended invitations to Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee and the Chief of Army Staff to visit the United States at mutually convenient dates. Besides, both sides participate in each other`s military training programmes, workshops and seminars.

(d) Since entering office in January 2001, the new U.S. Administration has conveyed on a number of occasions, both in bilateral meetings and publicly, that it has initiated the review process for lifting the remaining sanctions against India, including through consultations with the United States Congress.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.